

What's New in the MPDC

JANUARY 13, 2003

MPDC BEGINS PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN FOCUSING ON CITIZEN COMPLAINT PROCESS

The MPDC this week announced a new public education campaign to inform residents about changes in the process used to file and investigate complaints against MPDC members. The public education effort focuses on recent changes in the citizen complaint process, including the creation of the Office of Citizen Complaint Review. The OCCR investigates five types of complaints against MPDC officers: harassment; unnecessary or excessive force; inappropriate language or conduct; discrimination; and retaliation against an individual for filing a complaint. All other misconduct complaints continue to be investigated by the MPDC's Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR). Another reform expanded the ways in which individuals can initiate a complaint, to now include phone, mail, fax, in person or through forms posted on both the MPDC and OCCR Websites. In addition, for those complaints handled by the OCCR, conciliation and mediation are now possible outcomes. Learn more about these changes and the new public education effort by reading the news release at:

To educate residents about the citizen complaint process, the MPDC has developed various print materials in English, Spanish and various Asian languages. To request single or bulk quantities of these materials, please contact MPDC's Office of Corporate Communications at (202) 727-9346 or kevin.morison@dc.gov.

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

MPDC SEEKS INFORMATION FROM THE PUBLIC ON RECENT SERIES OF CARJACKINGS

The MPDC is seeking the public's assistance as part of an ongoing investigation into a series of carjackings that have occurred recently in Northwest DC. Three of the carjackings occurred in the Fourth District between 1 and 7 am on Sunday, January 5. All of the suspects in these cases are generally described as black males, possibly operating a black SUV. Police said these and other recent carjacking incidents have involved two *modus operandi*. In one, the offenders use their vehicle to "box in" the targeted vehicle; an armed offender then exits the suspect vehicle and commits the carjacking. In the other scenario, the offenders bump the target vehicle from behind to mimic a vehicle accident. When the victim stops, the offenders exit their vehicle and commit the carjacking. Police advise motorists who are suspicious about this type of vehicle accident to drive to a police or fire station or other location before exiting their vehicles. Anyone with information about recent carjacking cases is asked to call the MPDC at (202) 727-9099 or DC Crime Solvers at (800) 673-2777. Callers to Crime Solvers are eligible for rewards of up to \$1,000. Access the news release on these cases at:

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

If you are the victim of a carjacking, the MPDC encourages you NOT to resist. Your vehicle can be replaced – your life cannot. For a safety brochure on carjacking, call the MPDC Community Outreach Office at (202) 727-0783.

REGIONAL AUTO THEFT TASK FORCE REPORTS INCREASED ACTIVITY FOR 2002

The Washington Area Vehicle Enforcement (WAVE) Auto Theft Task Force released its 2002 statistics this past week, showing increases in both the number of auto theft suspects arrested and the number of stolen vehicles recovered by WAVE Unit members. The WAVE Unit was formed in April 2000 to combat auto theft in the Washington metropolitan area. Its goals are to identify and arrest persons operating stolen vehicles, recover stolen vehicles and take other enforcement actions to combat auto theft. The unit is composed of law enforcement officers from the MPDC, Montgomery and Prince George's County, Maryland State Police and US Marshals Service. In 2002, the WAVE Unit arrested 521 suspects (an increase of 40 percent from the previous year) and recovered 404 stolen vehicles (a 16 percent increase). Since its formation, WAVE members have arrested 1,048 auto theft suspects and another 174 suspects wanted on warrants. They have also recovered 45 firearms, sizable quantities of illegal drugs and 917 stolen autos valued at more than \$11 million. Get more detailed information in the news release at:

Even with the increased enforcement activity, auto theft in DC has risen sharply the last two years. Learn what you can do to help prevent auto theft, including signing up for the "Watch Your Car" program, by going to:

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on Traffic Safety)

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

MPDC STEPS UP "SPEEDING BLITZES"

Alarmed by the high percentage of traffic fatalities that are related to speeding, the MPDC is stepping up efforts to identify and arrest the most serious speeding violators in the city. Beginning this weekend, the MPDC is conducting periodic "speeding blitzes," in which teams of officers equipped with radar and lidar equipment target motorists who are driving at extremely high rates of speed on various roadways in the District. In DC, motorists who drive 31 or more miles per hour over the posted speed limit are arrested and face the possibility of jail time and large fines. In 2002,

The speeding blitzes and other traditional traffic enforcement activities are complemented by the MPDC's automated enforcement programs. For more information on DC's photo radar and red-light camera programs, go to:
mpdc.dc.gov (Click on Traffic Safety)

MPDC officers made 342 arrests for driving 31-plus mph over the limit. That is more than double the number of such arrests made in 2001 (which was 152) and almost five times the year 2000 total of 75. Still, excessive speed was a factor in 58 percent of the 50 traffic fatalities last year in DC. For more information on the "Speed Blitz" program, contact **Lt. Patrick Burke**, MPDC's Traffic Safety Coordinator, at (202) 727-4315 or ***pburke@mpdc.org***.

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with Crimereports.com.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE
MPDC.DC.GOV